

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 17339 030529Z

11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 129042
R 030457Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7692

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 17339

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, VS
SUBJECT: ENEMY FORCE AMBUSHES ELEMENTS OF 25TH ARVN DIVISION

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO/SAIGON 01 OCT 73
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE:
BIEN HOA 0526

1. MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH THIS MORNING ADVISED ME THAT
ELEMENTS OF 25TH ARVN DIVISION WALKED INTO AMBUSH ON SATURDAY
SW OF BEN CUI RUBBER PLANTATION IN KHIEM HANH DISTRICT, TAY NINH
PROVINCE. INITIAL REPORT HAD 6 KIA AND 37 WIA; RESULTS NOW
SHOW 9 KIA, 124 WIA AND 297 MIA. DEPUTY COMMANDER OF 2/49 KIA AND
COMMANDER OF SAME UNIT WIA. ACCORDING TO MINH, ENEMY UNITS,
WHICH REPORTEDLY WERE D-14 (LOCAL FORCE) AND 101 NVA REGIMENT,
SUFFERED 183 KIA AS RESULT OF 44 AIR SORTIES FLOWN BY VNAF.

2. MINH HAS REINFORCED EMBATTLED TROOPS WITH 5 RF BATTALIONS
AND HAS DEPLOYED OTHER ELEMENTS OF 25TH TO SUPPORT.

3. MINH HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT THIEU AND JGS,
COMPLAINING THAT 25TH FAILED TO HEED NEW TACTICS WHICH CALL FOR
SMALL UNIT OPERATIONS AND RECON TEAMS. HE ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT
FAILURE OF 25TH CG BG LE VAN TU TO KEEP HIM FULLY INFORMED AS
EVENT UNFOLDED. MINH TOLD ME THAT HE WAS NOT "OFFICIALLY"
NOTIFIED OF SERIOUSNESS OF INCIDENT UNTIL LATE SUNDAY EVENING.
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4. MINH BELIEVES SITUATION NOW IN HAND AND THAT HE HAS ENEMY
"TRAPPED", IN RUBBER AREA, TU WHICH THEY FLED TO AVOID AIR STRIKES.
WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
APPLING

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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